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In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

SB 2526 SD 1, RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

March 19, 2008
10:00 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (Department) has strong concerns regarding SB
2 2526 SD1.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department estimates the cost for continuous monitoring equipment and
4 accessories to be \$150,000. If the station is located in an area without available electrical power, an
5 additional cost of \$20,000 would be necessary. The operational and labor costs are estimated at
6 \$100,000 per year which includes a contractor to assist with the project.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The bill requires the Department to implement a three-year air monitoring
8 program to assess the impact that the cruise ship emissions may have on the Niumalu community while
9 the ship is burning bunker fuel with and without a sulfur content of 0.5 percent.

10 The Department generally supports the reduction of air pollution emissions. Cruise ships employ
11 large diesel engine generators and boilers that may result in significant amount of air emissions.
12 Currently, cruise ships burn fuel with a sulfur content typically ranging from 1.4% to 2.5%. The
13 international limit under MARPOL is 4.5%. Land-based power plants in Hawaii burn mostly 0.5%
14 sulfur fuel. Limiting the sulfur content of the bunker fuel to 0.5 percent will result in a significant
15 decrease in sulfur dioxide emissions. However, we caution that even with the cleaner fuel, the diesel

1 odor problem may be reduced but not eliminated because people have very different sensitivities to
2 smells.

3 The Department has been investigating the complaints of odors from the communities
4 surrounding the Nawiliwili Harbor and the possible causes. For a couple of years, preliminary air
5 monitoring was conducted with a variety of methods to assist in identifying the source as well as the
6 level of impact. Although the results were low, inconclusive, and well within the National Ambient Air
7 Quality Standards, the Department has not ruled out Nawiliwili Harbor as the source of odors, as the
8 harbor is typically upwind of the Nuimalu community. To address the issues, the Department in January
9 2008 met with representatives of the various cruise lines and staff from the Harbors Division,
10 Department of Transportation. As a result of the meeting and cooperation from the Harbors Division,
11 the Department will set up a temporary continuous monitoring station on Harbors' property which is
12 downwind from the ports and provides the necessary security and utilities. The monitoring station will
13 be fitted with more sensitive equipment that will measure several pollutants on a continuous basis.
14 Essential spare equipment is being used and technical staff is traveling weekly for service and
15 maintenance.

16 The bill also stipulates that the Department immediately begin monitoring the air quality in the
17 Nuimalu community which is not logistically and administratively possible. Finding a suitable location
18 for a monitoring station is quite difficult and time consuming due to the various parameters that must be
19 considered. We are already dealing with these issues as we try to locate a SO₂ monitor. Questions that
20 need to be answered are whether the location is representative of the community's air quality; are
21 electrical power and telephone lines readily available; would the station be secure; would the operating
22 noise bother the residents; what lease agreements are required for the use of the property; and how long
23 will it take to obtain it.

24 Finally, the Department is required to complete the three-year air monitoring project and to
25 submit a report to the legislature before the 2011 regular session. Completing the project before the

1 2011 calendar year is not possible because this time period is already less than three years and it does not
2 even account for the time necessary to purchase the equipment, procure a contractor, find a suitable
3 monitoring location, obtain a lease agreement, and install and debug the monitoring station.

4 For these reasons, the Department has difficulties with this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to
5 testify on this bill.

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